

§ 13.72

§ 13.72 Release of funds from Personal Funds of Patients.

Veterans Service Center Managers may authorize release of funds from Personal Funds of Patients for the needs of veterans and their dependents, including amounts fixed by statute or administrative regulations as the cost of current maintenance of veterans in institutions of the United States or a political subdivision thereof other than Department of Veterans Affairs institutions.

[40 FR 54248, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.73 Transfer of funds from funds due incompetent beneficiaries.

Veterans Service Center Managers may, when required for the benefit of the veteran and/or the veteran's dependents, authorize the transfer of amounts credited to veterans in Funds Due Incompetent Beneficiaries to Department of Veterans Affairs Personal Funds of Patients accounts or to chief officers of non-Department of Veterans Affairs institutions for the accounts of institutionalized veterans.

[40 FR 54248, Nov. 21, 1975]

§§ 13.74–13.77 [Reserved]

§ 13.100 Supervision of fiduciaries.

(a) *Federal fiduciaries.* In Federal fiduciary cases, the Veterans Service Center Manager may, when he or she deems it necessary for the protection of the beneficiary's interests:

(1) Require an accounting, formal or informal, of Department of Veterans Affairs benefits paid.

(2) Terminate the appointment of a Federal fiduciary and appoint a successor Federal fiduciary.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5502)

(b) *Court-appointed fiduciaries.* In court-appointed fiduciary cases, the Veterans Service Center Manager will take such informal action as may be necessary to assure that the needs of the beneficiary are provided for and Department of Veterans Affairs benefits are prudently administered and adequately protected.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501)

38 CFR Ch. I (7–1–04 Edition)

(c) *Unsatisfactory conditions.* In any case where a fiduciary fails to render a satisfactory account or has collected or paid, or is attempting to collect or pay, fees, commissions, or allowances that are illegal or inequitable or in excess of those allowed by law, or has failed to use Department of Veterans Affairs funds for the benefit of the beneficiary or the beneficiary's dependents, or has otherwise failed or neglected to properly execute the duties of his or her trust, and informal efforts by the Veterans Service Center Manager to correct the situation prove unsuccessful, the case will be referred to the Regional Counsel. In such cases the Veterans Service Center Manager may have all Department of Veterans Affairs benefits suspended.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5502)

(d) *Misappropriation, embezzlement or violation of Federal statutes.* When the evidence indicates a prima facie case of misappropriation, embezzlement or violation of the Federal statutes, the matter will be submitted to the Regional Counsel for review and, if appropriate, the Regional Counsel's referral to the U.S. Attorney.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 6101)

[40 FR 54249, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.101 Management and use of estates of minors.

Department of Veterans Affairs benefits payable in behalf of minors should be used for their benefit. Such funds should be expended only to the extent the person or persons responsible for their needs are unable to provide for them, except those derived from payments under 38 U.S.C. ch. 35.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501)

[28 FR 10751, Oct. 5, 1963]

§ 13.102 Accountability of legal custodians.

(a) *Institutionalized veterans without spouse or child.* The legal custodian of VA benefits of an incompetent veteran who has neither spouse nor child and who is being furnished hospital treatment or institutional or domiciliary care by the United States or a political subdivision thereof, will account upon

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 13.105

request to VA for funds received from VA for the beneficiary and will submit a statement of all other income received and the total assets from any source held for the beneficiary.

(b) *All other beneficiaries.* Compliance with the agreement as to benefit use and any authorized modifications due to changed need, proof of existence of funds surplus to immediate needs and proper investment thereof, if appropriate, will be established by personal contact.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501)

[36 FR 19025, Sept. 25, 1971, as amended at 53 FR 20618, June 6, 1988]

§ 13.103 Investments by Federal fiduciaries.

(a) *Type authorized.* VA benefits paid to a Federally appointed fiduciary other than a spouse payee or an institutional award payee may be invested only in United States savings bonds, or in interest or dividend-paying accounts in State or Federally insured institutions, whichever is to the beneficiary's advantage. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits that are paid on behalf of an incompetent veteran to an institution via an institutional award payment arrangement may not be invested.

(b) *Registration.* (1) When funds are invested in bonds, the bonds will be registered in this form: (Beneficiary's Name), (Social Security No.), under custodianship by designation of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) When funds are invested in interest or dividend-paying accounts in State or Federally insured institutions, the account will be registered in this form: (Beneficiary's name), by (Fiduciary's Name), Federal fiduciary.

(c) *Pre-need burial arrangements.* Federally appointed fiduciaries, other than institutional award payees, may use a beneficiary's funds derived from VA benefits to make deposits into, or purchase, a pre-need burial plan or burial insurance on behalf of the beneficiary, if to do so is in the beneficiary's interest.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501)

[53 FR 20619, June 6, 1988]

§ 13.104 Accounts of court-appointed fiduciaries.

(a) *Requirement to account; notices of filings and hearings.* Accounts may be required from court-appointed fiduciaries as provided by State law, but in no event less frequently than once every 3 years. Arrangements will be made with the courts whereby notices of filing of all petitions, accounts, etc., and of hearings on same, relative to court-appointed fiduciary cases wherein the Department of Veterans Affairs is an interested party, will be sent to the Veterans Service Center Manager for review, distribution and such action as may be appropriate. Matters which require legal action will be referred to the Regional Counsel, and will include any matter in which the Department of Veterans Affairs has any objections to offer.

(b) *Fiduciary and beneficiary in jurisdiction other than a State of the United States.* Accounts will not be required, in the discretion of the Veterans Service Center Manager, in cases where the fiduciary and beneficiary permanently reside in a jurisdiction other than a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or the Republic of the Philippines, and the fiduciary appointment was made in said jurisdiction.

[40 FR 54250, Nov. 21, 1975]

§ 13.105 Surety bonds.

(a) *Federal fiduciaries.* (1) The Veterans Service Center Manager may require a legal custodian, custodian-in-fact or chief officer of a private institution recognized to administer Department of Veterans Affairs benefits on behalf of a beneficiary, to furnish a corporate surety bond in an amount determined to be sufficient to protect the interest of the beneficiary. Such bond shall run to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the use and benefit of the beneficiary.

(2) The Veterans Service Center Manager may require a legal custodian to furnish an agreement in lieu of a surety bond or additional surety bond when funds are deposited in an interest or dividend-paying account in a State or federally insured institution. The agreement will provide that the legal